

REMARKS:

- 1) This is a Voluntary Supplemental Amendment further to the Response filed on November 3, 2005. That Response was a complete reply to the Office Action of May 4, 2005, and the present Supplement is not necessary for consideration of the Response to the prior Office Action. There is no open due date. Entry and consideration of the present Supplemental Amendment are respectfully requested when next examining this application.
- 2) The present Amendment introduces new claims 28 to 35, based on subject matter of pending claim 1 and original claims 19 to 25. Thus, the new claims do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration thereof are respectfully requested.
- 3) After the present amendment, claims 1, 4 to 11, 15, 16, 18, 26 and 27 read on the elected method invention/group and species. Claims 12 to 14 and 17 remain withdrawn from consideration, as directed to non-elected species, but depend from generic claims. Thus, if the elected claims are found allowable, the Examiner is respectfully requested to rejoin, consider and allow the dependent claims 12 to 14 and 17. New claims 28 to 35 are directed to the non-elected apparatus, but should now be rejoined for the following reasons.
- 4) Independent claim 28 is directed to an apparatus for processing and reusing gray water for flushing a toilet bowl. This apparatus comprises respective "means" for performing each of the

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method steps of independent method claim 1. Thus, claim 28 is a proper linking claim that links the inventive apparatus to the inventive method. In view of this linking claim, the previous traversal of the Restriction Requirement is renewed and reasserted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement on the basis of the present linking claim 28. The apparatus of claim 28 includes respective means for performing each one of the steps of the method according to claim 1. Thus, the claimed method is performed by the claimed apparatus, and the claimed apparatus is for performing the claimed method. For this reason, a Restriction Requirement between claims 1 and 28 is now improper, and, respectfully, should be withdrawn (see MPEP §809.03 and 809.04).

- 5) Furthermore, based on the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner, and for the reasons set forth in the Response of November 3, 2005, independent method claim 1 should now also be allowable because it incorporates "means" for performing all of the steps of the allowable method. Particularly, the prior art does not disclose and would not have suggested an apparatus having filter means comprising a coarse filter arranged outside of the processing tank and a fine filter arranged inside the processing tank, for respectively performing a coarse filtering and a fine filtering in these two locations. Thus, claim 28 and its dependent claims 29 to 35 should be allowable.

- 6) For the above reasons, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the Restriction Requirement, rejoin and examine linked apparatus claims 28 to 35, and allow all claims including the elected method claims as well as the non-elected but linked apparatus claims.
- 7) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1, 4 to 18 and 26 to 35, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Applicant

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Enclosures:  
Transmittal Cover Sheet

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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (571) 273-8300 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

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